

State Advisory Committee (SAC) For Children with Disabilities
Advising the NH Department of Education Per RSA 186-C:3-b
Minutes for the meeting of February 6, 2013
NH Department of Education
Room 15
4:30pm - 7:00 pm

In attendance: Mike Pinard, Bonnie Dunham, Joan Holleran, Daniel Ward, Eileen Liponis, Maureen Tracey, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Donna Curtin, Patrick Curtin, Raymond Dailey, Catherine Meister, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Senator Nancy Stiles, Adrienne Evans, Denise Maher, Renea Sparks, Dick Cohen, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins.

Guests: Barbara Cohen, Santina Thibedeau, Jennifer Fischer, Jack Curtin.

Agenda Item I: Welcome, Introductions, Approval of minutes

- Bonnie Dunham, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions.
- Approval of January minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes from Daniel Ward, and seconded by Kerri Lynn Kimner. There were four abstentions, all in favor.

Agenda Item II: Public Comment

- A parent's concern was brought to the group regarding her child's school district.

Agenda Item III: Legislative Update; Announcements; Correspondence, Current Events, Bureau Update.

- SAC member, Patrick Curtin shared his good news of new employment as well as his other accomplishments over the past months, including starting his own business of website development, called "PRC and Company". SAC also recognized his mom, Donna Curtin for her contribution to his success. Congratulations to Patrick and Donna!
- Legislative update: Bonnie Dunham provided a new update in addition to what was handed out on the NH Bills (LSRs). There isn't anything urgent. Senate Bill (SB) 27 will be heard next Tuesday, (2/12) as well as SB 48 and SB 82. A decision will be made if the bills should be sent to the House for review. SB 27 is relative to a monitoring piece, SB 48 is relative to accountability, and SB 82 is relative to developing a commission.
- Current Events: Parent Information Center (PIC) has current events on their website: www.parentinformationcenter.org.
- Bureau of Special Education Update: Santina Thibedeau spoke on the *Federal Sequestration*: On March 1st, it will be determined what the funding reductions will be. The Federal Office of Management and Budget will release the number of reductions in the 2013 budget, at that time. It is expected to have 2.4 million in cuts ~ 5.2% in special education monies. Santina is asking SAC members to call their Senators and Representatives tomorrow ~ February 7th for the *National Call-In Day* to oppose cuts to federal public education funding. The national NEA

is sponsoring this *National Call In Day*. There was discussion on this. The sequestration will affect other agencies; Parent Information Center (PIC), Disability Rights Center (DRC) etc. The Bureau of Special Education has explored what “college and career ready”, meant for students with disabilities. Diana Petschauer, of NHAIM presented Read and Write Gold Software program, at Southern NH University (SNHU). The audience included 160 educators. The Read and Write Gold vendor gave a free software membership CD to each district there. The software has an alternative technology center in it, that does all sorts of things for the student. Any school can get additional copies at half the rate and comes with free training. It was asked if Diana could present the Read and Write Gold for SAC.

Agenda Item IV: Old Business:

- Bonnie Dunham reminded each member to complete a “NH Statement of Financial Interest”, required by the Office of Secretary of State.
- Status of Data Driven Enterprise (DDE) report: The next meeting of this stakeholder group is March 5th.
- Membership Update: Senator Kelley and Senator Stiles have been reappointed for SAC membership. House Representatives have not been chosen yet. Carol Conforti-Adams would like to re-join SAC; Renea Sparks introduced Jennifer Fischer who is interested in SAC membership. She is a parent of children with special needs who are home schooled. She shared her experiences of home schooling as she homeschools all seven children. Heather Worthen, Director of Special Education is not at today’s meeting, but is also interested in SAC membership. Jeannie Saunders, a special education teacher would like to be a member of SAC, but has many commitments at this time and respectfully asks to be considered in another year or two. A motion was made by Bonnie Dunham to nominate Carol Conforti-Adams, Heather Worthen and Jennifer Fischer for SAC membership. Seconded by Kerri-Lynn Kimner. All in favor. Letters of nomination will be sent to the governor’s office. Candace Cole-McCrea offered to fill the vacancy of a business organization working with transition of services to children/students with disabilities.
- SAC’s support of the *Who cares about Kelsey Project*. It was discussed that SAC could sponsor an event where this video could be shown to legislators. The nearby church across the street from the state house was discussed as a location possibility.

Dick Cohen made a motion for SAC to co-sponsor an event to show *Who Cares About Kelsey and Project Renew* for the legislative body, on a date to be determined. Eileen Liponis seconded the motion. All in favor.

It was encouraged to have a SAC presence there and would need a few people to help out, as well as encouraging participation of the legislative staff. Renea Sparks is hosting a legislative breakfast to raise awareness on the issues of substance abuse for our youth. Other suggestions included having a panel afterwards, participating in the St. Paul School Chili cook off to promote awareness. An invitation would go to the following legislative body; Finance Committee, House and Senate education committees, Child and Family law committee, Health and Human services committee. Maureen Tracey will extend an invitation for Dan Habib and Joanne Malloy to attend. It would be an advantage if organizations were asked to participate as well ~having a few major organizations participate would provide an impact. It was

suggested to do a one page fact sheet, and provide links on the back. Candace suggested participants having a name tag that says: "I and my family have been impacted by Project Renew". PIC in connection with other groups such as Institute on Disability (IOD), Disability Rights Center (DRC) will spear head this project. Further discussion will happen at next meeting. All in favor.

Agenda Item V: New Business, Emerging Issues:

- SAC Attendance. A SAC member has asked if there is a protocol on attendance and how many meetings can be missed. Discussion is tabled until the next meeting.
- A motion was made by Candace Cole McCrea to ask Diana Petschauer of NHAIM to present the Read and Write Gold program for SAC to get a basic understanding of what this can do for school districts. Renea Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor, with no discussion. Terry Stafford will ask Diana to present at the March or April meeting.

Agenda Item VI: Subcommittees met and reported out:

Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes – Secondary Transitions
February 6, 2013

Attendance: Patrick Curtin, Renea Sparks, Donna Curtin, Joan Holleran, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Denise Maher.

Tonight's Agenda: The last time that this group met was at the December meeting (this group did not meet in January.) At this December meeting this sub-committee came up with possible ideas that we could address about Transition Planning. Renea took the minutes from the December meeting and she reviewed these ideas tonight.

Topics of interest include:

- How do you get involved as a student?
- Creating a timeline or a checklist to follow to know when Transition needs to begin. When do timelines need to be done and have check-in points.
- What does a good transition plan look like?
- Identify all the agencies that could be involved and establish a "go to" person perhaps within a school district is applicable.
- How do you integrate Career and College Readiness (CCR) Common Core into a transition plan?
- Come up with a set of questions a parent should ask when developing a transition plan with their respected school district.

Renea proposed the idea that we could trouble-shoot and decide on what topics would be pursued and each member of this sub-committee could take a different topic and we could present our results to the SAC. We agreed with this idea as a sub-committee and Donna Curtin presented our findings to the SAC when we re-joined as a group.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Curtin, M Ed

Transition Planning Sub-Committee

Subcommittee on Under identification/Unmet needs of children with Mental health or emotional/behavioral disabilities: Dick Cohen

The discussion in this group was relative to how hard it is for kids who have special needs in school, but also out of school. A coordinated approach is needed to address this issue. PBIS and Project Renew would be key in addressing this issue. It helps to prioritize services and use the “3 tier” approach. Getting the programs together including System of Care, PBIS/ Project Renew, Children’s Collaborative are important. Also, getting legislation for these three projects would promote and assure that these types of models would be in all schools. SAC would endorse this. This would not be a pilot program.

Failed implementation of IEPs: Discussion included how does SAC and PIC come up with a positive solution. How do you keep families involved and part of the solution.

Agenda Item VI: Other Issues

- Security in Schools and police presence in schools. Discussion held for future meeting.
- Indicator 8 Parent Survey Workgroup will be meeting on March 4th.
- Sue asked about Public Rules change. Bonnie can email them out.

Agenda Item VII: Adjournment of Meeting

- Raymond Dailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Maureen Tracey seconded.
- Renea Sparks, vice chairman, will be facilitating the March meeting on March 6th.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.